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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**NEW YORK METRO-AREA RESIDENT SENTENCED TO 30 MONTHS FOR
FRAUD IN CONNECTION WITH TOEFL/GMAT EXAMS**

BALTIMORE, Maryland - United States Attorney for the District of Maryland Allen F. Loucks announced that today U. S. District Court Judge Marvin J. Garbis sentenced Zhigang Cao, age 38, of New York, New York to 30 months in prison followed by 3 years of supervised release in connection with a scheme to defraud Thomson Prometric (Prometric), Educational Testing Service (ETS) and numerous universities and colleges throughout the United States. Judge Garbis ordered that 27 of the 30 months be served consecutive to a sentence imposed by a New York state court.

According to the agreed upon statement of facts presented to the court, through the submission of altered and fraudulent identifications and passport documents, Cao and his co-conspirators registered for and completed either the GMAT (Graduate Management Admissions Test), the GRE (Graduate Record Exam), or the TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) while posing for others who paid Cao or their designee to take the tests.

ETS is owned by ProMetric, a company located in Baltimore, Maryland that provides on-site security for standardized examinations. Prometric performed this service for ETS,

Graduate Management Admission Council (GMAC) and others. ETS and GMAC charged fees to students who took standardized exams. The results of ETS's and GMAC's examinations were relied upon by educational institutions in the United States in considering a student for admission to, or continued enrollment in, various academic programs. ETS and GMAC relied on Prometric for on-site security.

From September 1999 until May 2003, Cao operated under the guise of legitimate "tutoring" services. Specifically, a student who was being taught how to prepare for one of the aforementioned examinations would be told that for a nominal fee the test would be taken for the student. Cao and his co-conspirators charged approximately \$3,000 for this service and guaranteed a certain score. Cao and others advertised the service in the World Journal. When a student paid for the service, the owners/operators would register the student for the examination, and would schedule an imposter to take the test. Cao would also provide a false identification or a forged passport for the imposter to use in order to gain entry to the examination site. Cao would share the profits with the imposter.

Approximately over 590 exams were taken as part of the fraudulent scheme. Cao was involved in approximately 113 of those exams involving a total of \$282,500. Cao was also a test taker/imposter. He has been positively identified, through photograph identification, in approximately 45 examinations taken under false pretenses. Cao also recruited other friends to take examinations as impostors.

The criminal charges in this indictment are the result of a joint investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, United States Postal Inspection Service and the United States Attorney's Office. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Bonnie S. Greenberg.

